

## Fearey's First Edition 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2002

Once again, here's a brief synopsis of what's been happening in and around the 6<sup>th</sup> District. Feel free to include any or all of it in neighborhood publications or to hand out copies at association meetings. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please call me at 268-4331, or e-mail me at [Fearey\\_s@ci.wichita.ks.us](mailto:Fearey_s@ci.wichita.ks.us). I will try to get back to you as soon as I can. You may also call Terri Dozal, 6<sup>th</sup> District Neighborhood Assistant at 303-8042. Thanks to each of you for all the work you do to help keep the 6<sup>th</sup> District a viable, livable, great place to be.



### **Don't Trash Wichita!**

For the last several months the city has been engaged in a campaign to keep our city clean. Some of the activities surrounding this campaign include:

- The establishment of a **Neighborhood Action Line at 529-9999** for citizens to call with litter problems
- Two river clean ups between the Lewis Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street bridges. One was the weekend before River Fest began and the other was the last Sunday of the Festival. More than 100 volunteers picked up more than a ton of trash from along the banks of the river.
- The passage of a new **Neighborhood Nuisance Code** by the City Council: "The purpose of the ordinance is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the city and to protect neighborhoods against physical, visual and economic deterioration." What the ordinance does is to allow a broader base of city employees to enforce the provisions of the code and dramatically decrease the amount of time violators have to remedy the violation before the city does so for them and charges the cost back to the property owner. Neighborhoods will see much less time involved between turning in a problem property and

seeing it cleaned up. This program will be phased in to allow all employees training that will be necessary And to also gauge the affect on the cost of enforcement. Before action by the Council was taken; the proposal went to all District Advisory Boards and to the rental owner associations.

- Brochures about the Don't Trash Wichita program can be picked up at either the Downtown City Hall or any of the Neighborhood City Halls. If you would like to read the entire Nuisance Ordinance, you should be able to access it from the city's web site [www.wichitagov.org](http://www.wichitagov.org) or call the council office at 268-4331.

### **Bits and Pieces:**

- **Graffiti** in parts of the 6<sup>th</sup> District has been very bad. The Police along with the Office of Central Inspections and Public Works have been working to keep the graffiti cleaned up as quickly as possible. Terri Dozal, 6<sup>th</sup> District Neighborhood Assistant and I are in the process of working with churches in the area on trying to help alleviate the problem. A letter was sent to the




churches to ask for their assistance with this issue.

- State Representative Nile Dillmore and I worked with city staff to increase the amount of funding from the Special Alcohol Liquor Tax that is going back into the community for treatment services instead of accumulating in the city budget. \$491,000 is going to start a case management service to ensure clients and family members receive necessary programs and services to successfully re-integrate into society. Another \$258,757 is going to pilot programs for drug and alcohol treatment. These funds can only be used in the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction and educational programs about drug and alcohol abuse. All pilot programs have the ability to demonstrate outcome-based measurements.

- **Riverside Park** plans are moving along with final design review underway. *The Riverside Park Use Task Force* has worked hard to make sure the park upgrades are good not only for their neighborhood but also for the city as a whole. An offshoot of the Task Force is the *Save the Rocket Committee*, dedicated to saving the Rocket slide in Central Riverside Park that has been played on and loved by generations of Wichitans. The committee has held meetings with the Park Department, John D'Angelo of the Art and Design Council, and myself to work toward a goal of keeping the rocket in the park as at least a piece of art work.



- **Riverside Citizens Association** is also working with the Police Department to help show Wichitan's that the Sim's picnic area great  Park is a place to spend time. Once or twice a week

groups of area residents along with Community Police officers; Carolyn McGinn, Sedgwick County Commissioner, the co-presidents of Historic Midtown, and I are meeting for a brown bag lunch. To find out what day the picnics are happening, please call Kathy Dittmer at 262-6165.

- **Historic Midtown** has started the process of creating a neighborhood plan. A steering



committee has been appointed and is hard at work establishing the needs and goals of the neighborhood. A big part of being able to reach the goals was to establish a moratorium on new, inappropriate construction in the neighborhood during the planning period. That moratorium was established by the City Council at its May 14 meeting.

Since that time the City Council has approved a land swap trading land on North Topeka for a comparable lot in the south part of town on Broadway. The land on North Topeka can now be used for appropriate infill development

- **Indian Hills/North Riverbend** neighborhood association discussed the issues surrounding the violence and violations that have taken place at the *Paradise Club*. The police reported that patronage of the club



has dropped dramatically since the murder at the club. The club owner did renew his liquor license in May and will continue to operate a club from the facility. The neighborhood did start a letter campaign to the owner of the building encouraging them to try to find a more appropriate use for the building. If it were not used to sell liquor for a 12-month period, it would no longer be allowed to do so. A restaurant that

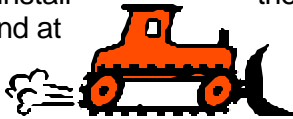
does sell liquor, however, if it were more family and neighborhood oriented, might also be an acceptable alternative. I am continuing to monitor this situation along with Officers from Patrol West and the City's Legal Department. State Senator Jean Schordorf and State Representative Nile Dillmore and I have also spoken about this issue. They are going to investigate what might be done at the state level regarding the issuance of liquor licenses in respect to reported violence at clubs.

- Brooks Landfill has received a permit to accept asbestos. This required a special permit beyond the one for construction and demolition materials due to special handling asbestos requires. Their ability to handle disposal of asbestos greatly helps the school district keep costs associated with the bond issue low since there is a lot of asbestos in the old buildings that must be abated.

• **Construction of the Old Town Cinema has begun!**



- The **Wichita Downtown Development Corporation** has hired Ed Wolverton as its Executive Director. Expect to see a lot of additional downtown marketing and business retention efforts as Ed takes over these important duties.
- **Sherwood Glen** is getting a sidewalk to their new playground. Residents of Sherwood Glen have worked for many years to install the playground at the Police



Department Training Facility near the corner of 37<sup>th</sup> and Meridian. With the new playground they needed a better way to access it than by walking on an arterial street. This will be

accomplished with the installation of the new sidewalk that is funded through Capital Improvement money and neighborhood contributions. The sidewalk will run along the south side of 37<sup>th</sup> near the playground and then cross to the north side.

- I was recently asked about the status of the **Murdock Street Bridge**. \$500,000 is programmed in 2004 to rehab the existing bridge. The character of the bridge will remain and lights similar to the original lighting will be added.



- We are very pleased to announce that **106.5 FM KYQQ** has agreed to host a City show on their station for 15 minutes each week on Sunday afternoons. This is an all Spanish-speaking radio station featuring lively Hispanic music. They currently pipe in a station from California and are working on local community programming. For right now, the live broadcast from Wichita is from 6 AM - 10 AM weekday mornings. They hope to build on this. Our show will feature information that is targeted to the Spanish community. Terri Dozal has agreed to be our Spanish-speaking voice of the City. As you can see, it is a GREAT opportunity, but it will take some effort to make it work. If you have something to inform our Hispanic community about, please send Terri the information on this. Be sure to give us enough time to include it, as translation will take some time. Currently, we plan to share time beginning in August with the School District doing one show a month and the City will do the other 3 shows each month. Our first installment was June 30th at 5 PM. We discussed Fireworks safety among other things.





- The **City of Wichita** is excited about a new opportunity for residents to become

involved in a project that will benefit your neighborhood! The City Council recently approved \$25,000 for each City Council District to fund the **Neighborhoods Matching Grant Program**. The grant program will provide an incentive for neighborhoods to plan and carry out improvement projects and to encourage citizen engagement in the projects and/or other events and programs.

Most of you are aware that the City's **District Advisory Boards (DABs)** play an important role in connecting with citizens about neighborhood concerns and issues. The purpose of the **Neighborhoods Matching Grant Program** is to assist the DABs to work with neighborhoods and support their activities. In this role, the DABs will be responsible for acting with the council member to approve grant application awards.

You may also obtain the guidelines and application from the neighborhood assistant at your neighborhood city hall, or the City Manager's Office downtown. In addition, you may download the information from the City's website at [www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov).

We urge you to review and share this grant information with your neighborhood group or association. The **Neighborhoods Matching Grant Program** is available to help your group work together to address issues for improving the neighborhood.

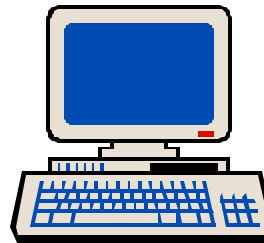
If you have questions, please contact the neighborhood assistant in your district. The contact information is provided within the grant guidelines.

To date, District VI has awarded nine grants. Projects included are

Newsletter publications, park enhancements, playground equipment, summer youth education, improvements for sidewalk access and special neighborhood events.

- Finally, watch for Terri Dozal, 6<sup>th</sup> District Neighborhood Assistant and me to "go electronic" in the near future. We hope to start updating the citizens of the district through a link on the city's web site in the near future. We will still send a hard copy of the update to all neighborhood associations as well as keeping several copies at the Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall. Hopefully we

will be ready to tell everyone how to access the link with the next edition of "Fearey's First Edition".



[www.wichitagov.org](http://www.wichitagov.org)

### **Events**

- National Night Out, Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Mark your calendars
- Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup> Primary Election!!!  
Please make your vote count
- Old Town Farm and Art Market. Open every Saturday from 7 am to noon. Come shop the market for garden fresh produce, arts and crafts and enjoy the entertainment.